

VIRGINIA

1. History and Social Science Standards of Learning – Virginia students begin developing an international perspective in elementary grades. In Grade 2, students study China and Egypt and in Grade 3 students study ancient Greece, Rome and Mali. Middle schools students study Spanish, French, Portuguese, and English explorations and the characteristics of the ancient West African societies of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai as well as international relations associated with World War I and World War II. High school students take courses in World History and Geography to 1500 A.D., World History and Geography from 1500 A.D. to the Present, and World Geography. In Virginia and United States History they study the role of the United States in the world, with particular emphasis on World War I and World War II and current foreign policies. In Virginia and United States Government students study foreign policy, national security, the global economy, and international trade initiatives. Students also must demonstrate knowledge of the governments in Mexico, Great Britain, and the People's Republic of China.
2. International Baccalaureate Programs – Virginia continues to participate in the International Baccalaureate programs; more schools are added each year. Currently there are 32 IB diploma programs, three middle school programs, and one primary school program in Virginia.
3. Foreign Language Instruction – Virginia public schools offer foreign language instruction in a variety of programs such as exploratory language courses, high school credit courses, elementary programs and partial or full immersion programs. The languages taught include French, German, Latin, and Spanish. Some school divisions also offer Italian, Japanese, Russian, American Sign Language, Korean, Arabic, and Chinese. The less commonly taught languages are frequently found in the northern part of Virginia near the Washington, D.C. area.
4. Governor's Foreign Language Academies – Virginia's first Governor's Full Immersion Academy was held in 1986. Since that date about 5,500 students have participated in the summer programs. At the three full immersion academies in German, Spanish, and French, students speak no English while they are enrolled. In addition to developing language skills, students participate in culturally authentic activities. The department also conducts partial immersion Governor's Foreign Language Academies for students studying Russian, Japanese, and Latin.
5. Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers and Administrators
 - WorldNet Virginia – Created in 1999, WorldNet Virginia provides online resources for teachers and students that support the Virginia Standards of Learning. The Web site also serves as an electronic fieldtrip for study seminar participants (see Worldnet: Virginia Study Seminars) to share their experiences with all teachers and students in Virginia through the Internet. The Web site may be accessed through the DOE Home Page and through www.pwnet.org.
 - WorldNet Virginia Study Seminars – In 1991 the Virginia Department of Education began offering teachers and administrators opportunities for professional development through firsthand study seminars in selected foreign countries. The 10-day seminars allow educators to benefit from lectures about the culture, politics, religion, geography, and history of the nations they are visiting. Seminars have been held in Germany, Israel, Syria, Egypt, Turkey, and Peru. In addition, the Department has a teacher exchange program involving Virginia and Russia. Co-sponsors of the seminars include Old Dominion University, the Virginia-Israel Advisory Board, the Armonk Institute, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and the World Affairs Councils of America. The teacher exchange program with Russia is co-

sponsored by the American Academic and Cultural Exchange. Teachers who participate in the seminars must participate in the WorldNet: Virginia Internet project. More than 250 teachers have participated in the study seminars.

6. Geography Connects – Geography Connects is an interactive online course for Virginia teachers. This course supports the Standards of Learning for teaching World History to 1500 A.D. The course is free for Virginia teachers who wish to earn up to 45 recertification points, or it may be taken for three graduate credits through Old Dominion University. The course includes the following five topics: the geography behind history, the world political map, geography of religion, trade and commerce as shaped by geography and technology, and ancient Egypt and the Fertile Crescent. The class will be offered on the Internet at <http://geoconnects.pwnet.org/> and is supported with a CD-ROM. To date, approximately 420 teachers have completed this online course.
7. Teaching East Asia Grant – Virginia has participated in the Teaching East Asia Grant for two years and would like to continue participation in the 10-year program. This program provides teachers with 30 hours of instruction and numerous resources on East Asia. The Virginia Department of Education supplemented the resources by purchasing 600 copies of *Mapping Asia*, produced by SPICE, *Imperial Japan*, produced by the Social Science Education Consortium, and *Asia in Transition* produced by the Southern Center for International Studies for program participants and for Virginia's middle and high school teachers who received professional development (see The Virginia Center for the Teaching of International Studies).
8. Virginia Center for the Teaching of International Studies – The Center is a partnership that involves Virginia Commonwealth University, the Greater Richmond World Affairs Council, and several other organizations including the Virginia Department of Education. The center is committed to teaching current international issues to Virginia's middle and high school teachers. The department has provided resources for teacher workshops and institutes such as *Russia and the Former Soviet Republics in Transition*, *Asia in Transition*, *Europe in Transition*, *Africa in Transition*, *Mapping Asia*, and *Imperial Japan*.
9. Visiting International Faculty Program (VIF) – VIF is a leading cultural exchange program for hosting international teachers in the United States. Since 1989 VIF has been bringing highly qualified educators to teach in elementary and secondary schools for one to three years. Thirty-five Virginia school divisions are hosting 136 teachers during the 2002-03 academic year.
10. Young Japanese Teachers' Educational Study Program – Since 1989 the Virginia Department of Education has worked with the Japanese Ministry of Education to host teams of teachers in Virginia localities. The purpose of this program is to increase international understanding through classroom participation as a teacher's aide and through the experiences received while living with a host family in the school division. Approximately 30 school divisions have participated in this program.
11. State-sponsored International Programs for Students
 - Russian International Space Olympics – Most years, 10 Virginia high school students participate in the International Space Olympics in Korolev, Russia, the center of the Russian space industry near Moscow. These students compete in the Olympics by presenting an oral presentation of their research projects and participating in selected tests in physics, mathematics, and computer science. The competition is judged by leading Russian scientists and academics. In 2000 a Virginia student won the oral presentation competition.

- Peruvian Joint Research Projects: Rain Forest – Working with Colegio Franklin Roosevelt School in Lima, Peru, 10 high school students will be selected to participate in a new initiative to study the rain forest. These students will meet with students at Colegio Franklin Roosevelt and then travel to Tambopata Research Center in Peru to complete research projects begun in fall 2002.

12. Web Resources

- *WorldNet Virginia*: www.pwnet.org
Please refer to the description of WorldNet Virginia located under Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers and Administrators.
- *Geography Connects*: <http://geoconnects.pwnet.org>
Please refer to the description of Geography Connects located under Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers and Administrators.
- *Mali: Ancient Crossroads of Africa*: <http://mali.pwnet.org>
This Web site is designed for elementary, middle, and secondary teachers as a guide to teach the history, geography, and economics of the early West African empire of Mali. The Mali Web site includes information, pictures, maps, videos, lesson plans, links, and resources to support the Virginia History and Social Science Standards of Learning.

13. DOE Hour – The Virginia Department of Education produces professional development programs for teachers and academic programs for students each week. These programs are broadcast statewide and nationally over public television stations and satellite downlinks.

- *Middle East Peace Process DOE Hour*
International topics have included a DOE Hour on the Middle East with taped interviews from Jerusalem with Professor Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov, Director of the Leonard Davis Institute, and Dr. Khalid Shikaki, Director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research. To complete the program, teachers and students could call-in questions to Jerusalem and Mr. Teddy Preuss, a reporter for the Haaretz daily newspaper and Mr. Muhammad Shaaker, editor of El Quds daily newspaper to have their questions answered on the air.
- *Egypt DOE Hour*
In Egypt, the DOE Hour consisted of taped elementary lesson plans from the pyramids and a taped interview with Dr. Zahi Hawass, Under Secretary of State for the Giza Monuments. The program concluded with live telephone call-in questions from teachers and students in Virginia to WorldNet: Virginia study seminar participants in Egypt.
- *Turkey DOE Hour*
This DOE Hour consisted of taped segments by Serdar Toksoz in Turkey explaining tenets of Islam. He also was taped exploring Jewish and Christian sites in Turkey. Viewers could call-in questions during the program and a local political science professor responded.
- *Mali DOE Hour*
The Mali DOE Hour was a live broadcast with Richard Woodward, Senior Associate Director, Curator of African Art, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; Djimo Kouyate, a griot, musician, and historian from Mali; and Ambassador Cheick Oumar Diarra from Mali.

Teachers may order video tapes of all DOE Hours for classroom instruction.

14. Classroom Posters – The Virginia Department of Education has provide school divisions with history and social science educational posters for the Web site entitled *Mali: Ancient Crossroads of Africa* and the internet course entitled *Geography Connects*. Classroom posters depicting Egypt and Peru have been mailed to all school divisions to promote WorldNet: Virginia. The posters may be used as learning tools for classroom discussions, posted on bulletin boards, and referenced during the appropriate units of study.
15. Brochures, Virtual Field Trips, Live Chats, Discussion Boards – Each WorldNet Virginia study seminar has included scheduled live chats from the foreign country with educators and students in Virginia, on-going discussion boards, and virtual fieldtrip opportunities for classroom participation. Brochures announcing these opportunities have been produced for the study seminars in Israel, Turkey, Egypt, and Peru, and for the International Space olympics in Russia.

Future Directions

Given today's realities of shrinking state budgets, limited personnel resources, and the importance of new federal legislation, state leaders must be encouraged to place continued emphasis on integrating international education into existing programs. In Virginia we will continue to enhance students' understanding of the international community through the Virginia Standards of Learning and, when possible, through participation in exemplary international programs. We will continue to provide professional development opportunities so that all teachers may reach the new federal benchmark of "highly qualified." This means that we will continue to explore the uses of technology through Internet courses, virtual field trips, and live DOE Hours to bring together Virginia and the world.

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